

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
NAGRAL, et al.

Appln. No.: To Be Assigned

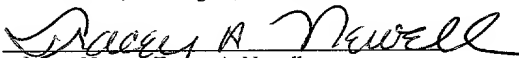
Filed: June 13, 2001

For: **INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL
SYSTEM FOR STORING AND RETRIEVING
THE VISUAL FORM OF INFORMATION
FROM AN APPLICATION IN A DATABASE**

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: Art Unit: To Be Assigned
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: Examiner: To Be Assigned
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: Docket No.: NGM-00102
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Certificate of Express Mailing

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following Preliminary Amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please replace lines 6-9 with the following:

--This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application No. 09/213,019 filed on December 16, 1998 (pending), which is based on U.S. provisional patent application No. 60/073,741, filed February 4, 1998.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-17 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please add the following new claims 18-50:

18. A method of storing visual information from a program that generates visual information in connection with performing a print operation, the method comprising:

providing a driver that intercepts the visual information from the program, wherein the driver appears to the program as a print driver;

causing the program to perform a print operation to generate the visual information;

the driver receiving the visual information from the program;

providing at least two tags associated with the visual information, wherein one of the tags is not part of the visual information generated by the program and wherein one of the tags is part of the visual information generated by the program;

providing a database based catalog that stores at least one of the at least two tags;

adding at least one of the at least two tags to the catalog; and

storing the visual information, wherein the visual information and the at least two tags may be accessed by another application that displays the visual information and displays visual indicators corresponding to the at least two tags.

19. A method, according to claim 18, wherein the visual information is stored in a metafile.

20. A method, according to claim 19, wherein the metafile is an EMF file.

21. A method, according to claim 18, wherein the visual information corresponds to a vector image.

22. A method, according to claim 18, further comprising:

providing at least one keyword associated with the visual information, wherein the visual information may be accessed by matching the keyword in connection with a search operation.

23. A method, according to claim 22, wherein the at least one keyword is provided by prompting a user to enter the at least one keyword prior to storing the visual information.

24. A method, according to claim 18, further comprising:

providing the catalog and the visual information to an application that is different from the program.

25. A method, according to claim 24, wherein the visual information is useable by the application.

26. A method, according to claim 18, further comprising:

indexing text information that is provided in the visual information.

27. A method, according to claim 26, wherein indexing includes ordering the text information to allow subsequent searching of the text information according to relative location of the text information in the visual information.

28. A method, according to claim 18, wherein causing the program to perform a print operation includes causing the program to perform at least one of: manual mode printing and batch mode printing.

29. A method, according to claim 18, further comprising:

determining a checksum for the visual information; and

storing the checksum along with the visual information.

30. A method, according to claim 18, further comprising:

providing at least a portion of the collection of tags and at least a portion of the visual information to an application that does not store the visual information.

31. A method, according to claim 18, further comprising:

providing at least a portion of the visual information to an application that does not store the visual information.

32. A method, according to claim 18, further comprising:

providing at least a portion of the visual information to an application that is different from the program.

33. A computer program that stores visual information from a program that generates visual information in connection with performing a print operation, comprising:

executable code that emulates at least some of the functionality of a print driver and that intercepts the visual information from the program in connection with the program performing a print operation;

executable code that provides at least two tags associated with the visual information, wherein one of the tags is not part of the visual information generated by the program and wherein one of the tags is part of the visual information generated by the program; and

executable code that stores the visual information, wherein the visual information and the at least two tags may be accessed by another application that displays the visual information and displays visual indicators corresponding to the at least two tags.

34. A computer program, according to claim 33, wherein the executable code that stores the visual information stores the visual information in a metafile.

35. A computer program, according to claim 34, wherein the metafile is an EMF file.

36. A computer program, according to claim 33, wherein the executable code that intercepts the visual information is configured to receive a vector image.

37. A computer program, according to claim 33, further comprising:

executable code that accesses the visual information by matching at least one keyword in connection with a search operation.

38. A computer program, according to claim 37, further comprising:

executable code that prompts a user to enter the at least one keyword prior to the visual information being stored.

39. A computer program, according to claim 33, further comprising:

executable code that indexes text information that is provided in the visual information.

40. A computer program, according to claim 39, further comprising:

executable code that orders the text information to allow subsequent searching of the text information according to relative location of the text information in the visual information.

41. A computer program, according to claim 33, further comprising:

executable code that determines a checksum for the visual information; and
executable code that stores the checksum along with the visual information.

42. An apparatus that stores visual information from a program that generates visual information in connection with performing a print operation, comprising:

means for providing a driver that intercepts the visual information from the program in connection with the program performing a print operation, wherein the driver appears to the program as a print driver;

means for providing at least two tags associated with the visual information, wherein one of the tags is not part of the visual information generated by the program and wherein one of the tags is part of the visual information generated by the program;

means for storing the visual information, wherein the visual information and the at least two tags may be accessed by another application that displays the visual information and displays visual indicators corresponding to the at least two tags.

43. An apparatus, according to claim 42, wherein the visual information is stored in a metafile.

44. An apparatus, according to claim 43, wherein the metafile is an EMF file.

45. An apparatus, according to claim 42, wherein the visual information corresponds to a vector image.

46. An apparatus, according to claim 42, further comprising:

means for providing at least one keyword associated with the visual information, wherein the visual information may be accessed by matching the keyword in connection with a search operation.

47. An apparatus, according to claim 46, further comprising:

means for prompting a user to enter the at least one keyword prior to storing the visual information.

48. An apparatus, according to claim 42, further comprising:

means for indexing text information that is provided in the visual information.

49. An apparatus, according to claim 48, wherein the means for indexing includes means for ordering the text information to allow subsequent searching of the text information according to relative location of the text information in the visual information.

50. An apparatus, according to claim 42, further comprising:

means for determining a checksum for the visual information; and

means for storing the checksum along with the visual information.

[illegible]

Respectfully submitted,
HUTCHINS, WHEELER & DITTMAR

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